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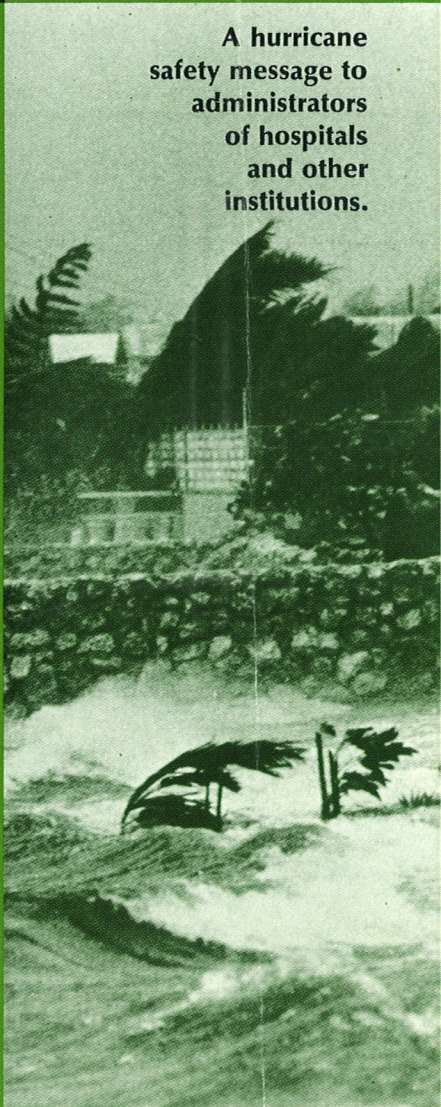


# GETTING THROUGH

A hurricane  
safety message to  
administrators  
of hospitals  
and other  
institutions.

U.S.  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
COMMERCE

National  
Oceanic and  
Atmospheric  
Administration





Hurricanes do not spring suddenly upon a community, for there is usually ample warning; but, once there, these great storms have enormous stamina. Getting through a hurricane means getting through days and nights of wind, rain, high water, and spirit-breaking isolation.

At such times, no one carries a heavier responsibility than the administrators of hospitals, rest homes, and other institutions whose occupants may be too young, too old, or too infirm to help themselves. Their success in a hurricane emergency rests more on decisions made before the threat matured than on those made during the long nightmare of wind and water.

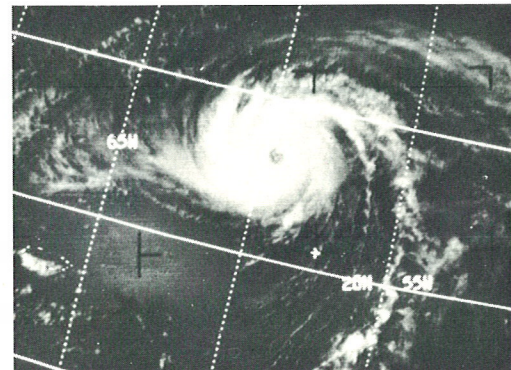
To help you meet the challenge of the storm, the National Weather Service offers these rules for saving lives.

### Hurricanes isolate you.

They cut the supply lines which tie communities together, and keep them alive. They break the conduits and mains which link your life to light and heat. They flood and poison your water supply.

Before the storm strikes, your institution should be as self-sufficient as a ship setting out to sea. Its ties with the "land" are dispensable, its windows are taped, boarded, or shuttered, and it carries its own water supply, non-perishable food, auxiliary power source, and emergency communications equipment.

It is ready for a day or two of high winds and water, and for the weeks and months of reconstruction that follow any large, destructive storm.



### Hurricanes make refugees.

Your institution may have to serve as one of the community centers for the dispossessed, with a consequent increase in food and water and space consumption.

You may also have to help with the numerous injuries caused by the storm, and with the illness that parallels the flooding of sewers and pollution of water supplies. This will raise the levels of consumption in your facilities.

The degree to which your institution can absorb such increases must be decided long before the storm arrives. This should be part of a standard hurricane preparedness plan, preferably one developed with other institutions and agencies in your community.



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### A note on evacuation.

Some hurricanes are so severe that even seemingly sound buildings must be evacuated. During 1969's hurricane Camille, 190-mile-an-hour winds and 20-foot storm tides completely destroyed most of the buildings along the Gulfport, Mississippi, beachfront.

When you are asked to evacuate your premises, do so as quickly and calmly as possible. You will not be asked unless the safety of those in your care is seriously threatened.

Your community's hurricane preparedness plan can help you make necessary pre-hurricane decisions. Maps showing your facility's height above sea level (and high tide), recommended escape routes and safe shelters, and a staff well trained in emergency evacuation procedures are essential to survival in a hurricane.





## WORDS OF WARNING

**GALE WARNING:** When winds of 38-55 miles per hour (33-48 knots) are expected, a gale warning is added to the advisory message.

**STORM WARNING:** When winds of 55-74 miles per hour (48-64 knots) are expected, a storm warning is added to the advisory message.

When gale or storm warnings are part of a tropical cyclone advisory, they may change to a hurricane warning if the storm continues along the coast.

**HURRICANE WATCH:** If the hurricane continues its advance and threatens coastal and inland regions, a hurricane watch is added to the advisory, covering a specified area and duration. A hurricane watch means that hurricane conditions are a real possibility; it does not mean they are imminent. When a hurricane watch is issued, everyone in the area covered by the watch should listen for further advisories and be prepared to act quickly if hurricane warnings are issued.

**HURRICANE WARNING:** When hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours, a hurricane warning is added to the advisory. Hurricane warnings identify coastal areas where winds of at least 74 miles per hour are expected to occur. A warning may also describe coastal areas where dangerously high water or exceptionally high waves are forecast, even

though winds may be less than hurricane force.

When the hurricane warning is issued, all precautions should be taken immediately. Hurricane warnings are seldom issued more than 24 hours in advance. If the hurricane's path is unusual or erratic, the warnings may be issued only a few hours before the beginning of hurricane conditions.

Tornadoes spawned by hurricanes are among the storms' worst killers. When a hurricane approaches, listen for tornado watches and warnings. A tornado watch means tornadoes are expected to develop. A tornado warning means a tornado has actually been sighted. When your area receives a tornado warning, seek inside shelter immediately.



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To find out more about community preparedness in hurricane country, get **The Homeport Story, An Imaginary City Gets Ready For A Hurricane** from:

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